

1           IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2           FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

3  
4           \_\_\_\_\_  
5           WRS, INC.

6                           Plaintiff

7                           vs.                   Civil Action No. 00-2041

8           PLAZA ENTERTAINMENT, INC., et al

9                           Defendants  
10           \_\_\_\_\_

11                           PROCEEDINGS

12           Transcript of Oral Argument held on Wednesday,  
13           January 31, 2007, United States District Court, Pittsburgh,  
14           Pennsylvania, before Honorable Arthur J. Schwab, U.S.  
15           District Judge.

16           APPEARANCES:

17           For the Plaintiff:       THOMAS E. REILLY, P.C.  
18                                   By: THOMAS E. REILLY, Esq.  
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21           For the Defendant:     BURNS, WHITE & HICKTON  
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24 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography. Transcript  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

2

(Whereupon, Court convened at 8:45 a.m.)

3

KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: Please be seated.

4

THE COURT: Good morning.

5

This is the time and place that's been set to

6

answer some questions I have relating to plaintiff's motion

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for summary judgment as to damages, which is filed at

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Document No. 113 in Civil Action No. 00-2041, which has been

9

transferred to me by Order of the Chief Judge of the United

10

States District Court for the Western District of

11

Pennsylvania.

12

To put this in context, the Court, by Order of

13

July 21st, 2006, granted summary judgment in the plaintiff's

14

favor against the defendant on a surety agreement.

15

There was also a motion filed by the defendant for

16

summary judgment to deny any damages to the plaintiff, and I

17

denied that particular motion.

18

So we are in that particular context, that

19

liability has been found against the defendant, and we're to

20

determine the amount of damages, if any. That, obviously,

21 preserves the right to the defendant to raise on appeal any

22 issues they had relating to liability and damages.

23       The issue that I want to deal with is that I have

24 specific questions I want to ask both sides, so get your

25 papers out. We're going to get into the details, because the

1 real issue to me is whether defendant has raised, by proper  
2 filings of record, genuine issue of material fact as to the  
3 specific items of damage.

4 Now, I'm going to start with plaintiff's counsel,  
5 and I would ask respectfully that each of you answer the  
6 specific question I ask.

7 I've read all your arguments. If you don't have an  
8 answer, there's nothing wrong with saying you don't have an  
9 answer. But please stay focused on the question that I am  
10 raising.

11 All right. Now, counsel for the plaintiff,  
12 defendant, if you wish, I would like you to go to Docket  
13 No. 128, which is Mr. Napor's -- N-A-P-O-R -- affidavit dated  
14 October 16th, 2006. It's Document No. 128-16. Is that  
15 before you, sir? It's his main affidavit he filed in the  
16 damage claims.

17 MR. REILLY: Yes, sir, I have to access it. It's  
18 here.

19 KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: It's also 115.

20 THE COURT: It's also filed at 115.

21 MR. REILLY: Yes, I believe I have it.

22 THE COURT: Do you want to go to Page 5, please.

23 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. You want to hold that page up so

25 I can see and make sure we're on the same page?

1 MR. REILLY: Is it the signature page of his  
2 affidavit?

3 THE COURT: No.

4 KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: Page before.

5 THE COURT: Page 5 of 43 pages.

6 KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: The page before the  
7 signature page.

8 MR. REILLY: Okay, Your Honor. I have that.

9 THE COURT: No.

10 KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: Here, I have two of  
11 them.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Defense counsel, you want to get  
13 to the same place, please.

14 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor. I have it.

15 THE COURT: All right. Now, at Paragraph 16,  
16 Page 5 of Document No. 128-16; may have some other numbers.  
17 It was filed separately. But the first number is  
18 \$1,270,683.34; correct?

19 MR. REILLY: That's correct, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: What document supports that number

21 that's of record?

22 MR. REILLY: That number, I believe, is the

23 December 31st, 2000 balance shown by the -- I'm not sure of

24 the exact document of record, but I believe it's attached.

25 But it was the number that the Schneider Downs people arrived

1 at and said was the accurate number as of that date.

2 THE COURT: All right. I appreciate if both of you  
3 really listen to my question, because it's going to be  
4 important to both of you to answer what I ask.

5 So I want to know what, what is the document of  
6 record? What I'm looking at says it's Exhibit 2, and I just  
7 want to verify that if one goes to Exhibit 2, one would find  
8 that number.

9 MR. REILLY: Your Honor, I believe that is the  
10 total number shown on the second to last page of Exhibit 2,  
11 \$1,270,683.34. It's in the center of the page.

12 THE COURT: Now, the document as it appears in the  
13 record, Exhibit 2, is very illegible. Some of the numbers I  
14 can read, some I can't.

15 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: You need to go on line, please, and  
17 file a document, or send it to us, since everything needs to  
18 be filed electronically.

19 The problem is, it looks like it's a computer  
20 print-out, and when it's filed electronically, it doesn't

21 come out as clear as it should be. So you need to make an  
22 effort and to sometime this week get it either as a separate  
23 document, or as a refiling or something, so that Exhibit 2  
24 attached to the affidavit is clear. So when this goes up on  
25 appeal, when the Court of Appeals goes to the document, they

1 can see the document. If it's illegible when it's  
2 transferred electronically, that's not going to be helpful to  
3 them.

4 MR. REILLY: Your Honor, I understand the  
5 difficulty, Your Honor. It's a much longer document, green  
6 and white paper printed out, probably 18 to 22 inches wide.  
7 And we attempted to copy it and reduce it so that it could be  
8 electronically filed. But I will find a way to make that  
9 happen.

10 THE COURT: Okay. That would be helpful.

11 And what I'm looking at is Exhibit 2 of the Napor  
12 affidavit. Starts at Page 18 of 43 pages, Document  
13 No. 128-16.

14 Now then, that was the total as of December 31st,  
15 2000. Then there were additional adds and subtracts to that  
16 total to bring it current to August 3rd, 2001; correct?

17 MR. REILLY: That's right, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: And those transactions in and out, are  
19 they set forth on Exhibit 1 of the Napor affidavit?

20 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And that document does seem to

22 be much clearer. And if I look at Page 17 of the 43 pages of

23 Document 126-00, 128-16, I find the total of \$1,324,841.61;

24 correct?

25 MR. REILLY: That's correct, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: So we've talked about the total as of  
2 December 31st, 2000; we talked about the total updated to  
3 August 3rd, 2001.

4 Walk me through the interest calculation based on  
5 the total amounts of accounts receivable that we just  
6 discussed.

7 Let me be a little more pointed. Did somebody sit  
8 down and calculate on a month-by-month running total the  
9 interest at the 1.5 percent?

10 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor. I did that myself.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Where are the calculations that  
12 show that?

13 MR. REILLY: That's a good question. I believe I  
14 did it on my computer, and then just distilled the number  
15 into this document, and then showed it to Mr. Napor and had  
16 him verify that it was accurate.

17 I can tell you what I did, and then I can perform  
18 those calculations and file those calculations, if the Court  
19 would want. But what I did was I subtracted out the finance  
20 charges that were included in the December 31st number so

21 that I would have essentially a principal balance, as opposed

22 to principal and interest. Then I multiplied --

23 THE COURT: Is that because you don't believe

24 interest should be on interest?

25 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. REILLY: Then I --

3 THE COURT: So the record is clear, you took the  
4 total of December 31st, 2001, which is \$1,270,683.34. You  
5 took out of that number whatever the interest component of  
6 that total was, ended up with a net amount for the account  
7 receivables, exclusive of finance charges, as of  
8 December 31st, 2001 of \$1,042,477.84.

9 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

10 THE COURT: And then, from that point, you took  
11 that amount and you rolled that forward at 1.5 percent per  
12 month; correct?

13 MR. REILLY: That's correct, Your Honor.

14 And I think that the 63.42 was the number of months  
15 that transpired from July 1st, 2001 until October 13th, 2006,  
16 which was the date I performed the calculations.

17 THE COURT: But you determined that the monthly  
18 charge on that \$1,042,477.84 was \$15,637.17 per month.

19 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

20 THE COURT: And from that point, then, you

21 calculated how many months it was from January 1st, 2001 to

22 the end of your calculation period, which was October 13th,

23 2006; correct?

24 MR. REILLY: That's correct, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: That's how you got the \$991,709.17;

1 correct?

2 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

3 THE COURT: And as of record, Mr. Napor, in his

4 affidavit, verified that that was an accurate number;

5 correct?

6 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

7 THE COURT: And then, you took that total of what

8 the balance was as of August 3rd, 2007, and of \$1,324,841.61,

9 and you added to that, then, the interest, which was

10 \$991,709.17; correct?

11 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

12 THE COURT: And that gave you a total as of

13 October 13th, 2006 owed for the account receivables and the

14 interest of \$2,316,550.72; is that correct?

15 MR. REILLY: 78 cents, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: 78 cents; that's correct.

17 MR. REILLY: That's right.

18 THE COURT: How does that number tie, then, to your

19 proposed Order of Court attached to your motion for summary

20 judgment as to damages, which is Docket No. 113-2?

21 MR. REILLY: That's a pretty good question. Let me

22 find that.

23 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, I would just point out,

24 you said a date, 2007. I think you meant, 2006.

25 THE COURT: Yes, I did. Thank you for the

1 correction. Appreciate that.

2 MR. REILLY: I do -- you have the copy of that

3 Order? May I look at it, as opposed to just going through my

4 file?

5 Your Honor, I believe, and subject to being

6 mathematically corrected, that in addition to the principal

7 balance that I started with in the Order, I added the storage

8 charges, plus the finance charges on the storage charges and

9 the total due under the services agreement.

10 I believe that -- and fix that as a principal

11 amount, which was \$1,205,827.84, upon which the finance

12 charge should accrue, meaning that there is -- that the

13 storage charges and the \$125,000 due under the services

14 agreement, I believe -- I think this is -- well, let me look

15 at it.

16 I believe that what I did was take the \$125,000 due

17 under the services agreement, and the storage charge, 38,350,

18 add that to the principal balance of \$1,042,477.84, to come

19 to a principal balance as of the date of my calculation, and

20 then have interest run on that, as opposed to, again,

21 accruing interest on interest. But I have to perform the

22 calculation again to make sure that's 100 percent accurate.

23 But what I was doing was quantifying the storage

24 charges and the total due on the services agreement as a part

25 of the principal, so that the interest would not run on

1 interest.

2 THE COURT: Do you believe that there should be

3 interest on the storage charges, and why?

4 MR. REILLY: I believe it's a part of the terms and

5 conditions of the account arrangement between WRS and Plaza

6 to pay the storage charges. It arises, I think, under the

7 terms and conditions, not under the services agreement, but

8 at the terms and conditions as part of the account agreement.

9 THE COURT: Where does the right of interest come

10 from? Because the invoice has the stamp on there of the one

11 and one-half percent a month on the unpaid balance.

12 MR. REILLY: I believe that's correct.

13 THE COURT: Now, in the service agreement what,

14 what creates the right to, and from the plaintiff's

15 perspective, of right to interest on the service agreement,

16 if any?

17 MR. REILLY: I can't tell you that. I don't know

18 that there's a provision that says that. I don't recall

19 there being one.

20 THE COURT: Do you believe that the number in your

21 proposed Order of Court of \$1,205,827.84 includes the

22 accounts receivable total, plus the storage charge total,

23 plus the service agreement total?

24 MR. REILLY: I'm going to figure that out, if you

25 give me a minute; make sure.

1 THE COURT: Take a moment, please.

2 MR. REILLY: Your Honor, I believe it includes  
3 \$125,000 for the payments due under the services agreement  
4 and the 38,350 in storage charges, plus the original  
5 principal balance of \$1,042,477.84.

6 THE COURT: And when you calculated the interest,  
7 you included the service agreement charges of \$125,000 in  
8 that calculation?

9 MR. REILLY: Um, I believe that in that  
10 calculation, I think I was requesting interest, 1.5 percent  
11 per month from October 13th, when I calculated this.

12 THE COURT: No. When you calculated the proposed  
13 Order of Court, did you include an interest component  
14 relating to the service agreement?

15 MR. REILLY: Give me a minute and I'll let you  
16 know. Let me be sure.

17 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, I just would like to  
18 note for the record that Mr. Reilly is --

19 THE COURT: Just be patient, just be patient.

20 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, I would like to make a

21 comment for the record, please.

22 THE COURT: Okay, fine.

23 MR. SIEMINSKI: I would like to note for the record

24 that Mr. Reilly is performing a series of calculations.

25 THE COURT: Of course he is. He just said he was

1 doing that.

2 MR. SIEMINSKI: I wanted it to be clear on the

3 record, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: That's why we're here.

5 MR. REILLY: Your Honor, I believe that I included

6 the \$12,080.25 shown as the total interest on storage charges

7 as part of the \$2,527,029.03 as a sum that was owed as of

8 October 13th. So, that would incorporate 1.5 percent per

9 month on the 38,350 as calculated.

10 So yes, I believe that there is interest included

11 in that figure on -- excuse me -- on the storage charges, but

12 there is no interest calculated on the \$125,000 of the

13 services agreement.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 And that's because there's nothing in the

16 agreements that provide that the defendants are responsible

17 for an interest component on the service agreement; correct?

18 MR. REILLY: That's accurate, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: And I appreciate that there are

20 differences in the numbers, but that's because different

21 documents were filed at different times, which would impact

22 the calculation of interest, depending on when the document

23 was filed.

24 MR. REILLY: That's right, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Now I'm going to focus on, and have

1 been focusing on, not what the lawyers have filed as lawyer  
2 papers, but what are the affidavits of record in this case,  
3 because that's what really joins the factual basis for the  
4 purpose of summary judgment.

5 Now, in the service agreement, how many months did  
6 you include in that calculation?

7 The reason why I asked the question, some places I  
8 see 17 months, other places I see 25 months. That may be  
9 because of when different things were filed. But the  
10 affidavit I'm relying upon for our discussion today has  
11 \$125,000. So how many months is that?

12 MR. REILLY: There were 25 months, Your Honor. I  
13 believe that's shown in Paragraph 15 of the affidavit.

14 THE COURT: What's the source of the 25 months?

15 MR. REILLY: It's from the beginning of the  
16 agreement, which was August -- or excuse me -- October of  
17 1998 until the end of 2000, I believe.

18 THE COURT: Okay. So from November, 1998 through  
19 December of 2000; correct?

20 MR. REILLY: That's correct.

21 THE COURT: Where does the 17 months come from?

22 MR. REILLY: I believe in October of 2000 is when

23 we commenced the action, so that the 17 months would be

24 from -- it's leading up to about when we prepared the

25 complaint, I believe.

1 THE COURT: So you believe the reason why it's now  
2 25 months, as opposed to 17, is more months have passed, or  
3 passed between the calculation of the 17 months versus the  
4 25 months?

5 MR. REILLY: I believe that's accurate, Your Honor.  
6 It may have been July of 2000 when we calculated the \$80,000.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Counsel, you've been eager to  
8 speak, so now I will give you your opportunity to speak.

9 First of all, what has been filed, please, that  
10 disputes a particular line reference in Exhibit 2 of  
11 Document 128-16?

12 In other words, Exhibit 2 attached to the  
13 October 16th, 2006 Napor affidavit sets forth the account  
14 receivables allegedly owed as of December 31st, 2000.

15 What affidavit has been filed of record that  
16 challenges any or all entries on that document specifically?

17 MR. SIEMINSKI: My client's affidavit challenges  
18 the amount specifically, because it, it points out that there  
19 are a number of unanswered questions as to how that amount  
20 was arrived at.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I'll ask you again, as clearly

22 as I can.

23 Where in that affidavit is a particular line

24 challenge that the amount on the line is \$100, but should

25 have been \$90?

1 MR. SIEMINSKI: There is no such challenge.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for your candor. I

3 appreciate that.

4 Is the same true as to Exhibit 1, which deals with  
5 the new charges between December 31st, 2000 and August 3rd,  
6 2001?

7 MR. SIEMINSKI: As the Court frames the question,  
8 yes.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Now, have you calculated -- strike that.

11 Is there anything of record filed by the defendant,  
12 or on behalf of the defendant, under oath, that challenges  
13 the calculation of interest which produces the total of  
14 \$991,709.17, sir?

15 MR. SIEMINSKI: Not a calculation per se, Your  
16 Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Other than saying there should  
18 not be any interest charged, is there anything of record that  
19 says the amount of interest should be 700,000, or 600,000 or  
20 500,000, as opposed to the 991,000?

21 MR. SIEMINSKI: No, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Is there anything of record that

23 challenges the calculation of a storage charge totaling

24 38,350?

25 MR. SIEMINSKI: Again, not the calculation per se,

1 but certainly the record is replete with challenges to the  
2 entitlement.

3 THE COURT: Okay. But if there's an entitlement --  
4 and again, you may convince the Third Circuit I was incorrect  
5 about this, and I respect that -- but if there is an  
6 entitlement, is there anything of record that disputes the  
7 plaintiff's calculation that the total charges for storage is  
8 \$38,350?

9 MR. SIEMINSKI: Not that calculation, per se. But  
10 again, I would be remiss unless I referenced all of the other  
11 issues that I think are before the Court.

12 THE COURT: Do you have any reason to doubt the  
13 interest calculation relating to the storage charges, which  
14 interest calculation totals \$12,080.25?

15 MR. SIEMINSKI: Yes, Your Honor. Because there are  
16 significant doubts raised as to the principal, by definition,  
17 there would have to be significant doubts raised as to the  
18 interest.

19 THE COURT: I apologize. My question maybe isn't  
20 clear.

21 I preserve; you preserve. You've done everything

22 you can to preserve your rights as to liability. Today I

23 want to focus on the damages.

24 So, if one took the \$38,350 for storage charges and

25 applied the one and a half percent, is there anything of

1 record in this case that says that the plaintiff's

2 calculation of \$12,080.25 is inaccurate?

3 MR. SIEMINSKI: No.

4 THE COURT: Do you agree with me that the service

5 agreement amount owed of \$125,000 should not bear an interest

6 component?

7 MR. SIEMINSKI: Yes, because I would suggest to the

8 Court that there's no amount whatsoever that is attendant to

9 the services agreement that should be attributed to my

10 client.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So you think, if I determine

12 that there's moneys owed under the service agreement, you

13 believe there should be interest or not interest?

14 MR. SIEMINSKI: Not interest.

15 But of course, I disagree with the premise,

16 respectfully.

17 THE COURT: No, I appreciate that. And I think

18 you've done an excellent job of, in your papers of making

19 that clear. I think you've done a very good job, and your

20 client should be proud of you.

21 All right. Let's turn to the attorney's fee

22 petition, if you would for me, please. And that's made up of

23 two affidavits that have been filed by Mr. Reilly. One has a

24 total of \$86,748, which has been supplemented by an affidavit

25 of \$6,020.

1 Now, attorneys fees are made up, appears, of two  
2 components.

3 One is an hourly rate; is that correct?

4 MR. REILLY: I believe it's all an hourly rate,  
5 Your Honor. There's two different hourly rates that applied  
6 during the --

7 THE COURT: But it's hourly rate times number of  
8 hours; correct?

9 MR. REILLY: That's right.

10 THE COURT: And the two hourly rates were \$175, and  
11 then \$200 an hour.

12 MR. REILLY: That's correct, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: On behalf of the defendant, is there  
14 any affidavit filed, or anything else of record challenging  
15 the reasonableness of those dollar amounts in the Western  
16 Pennsylvania marketplace?

17 MR. SIEMINSKI: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: And then, there are certain number of  
19 hours set forth on those two affidavits.

20 Is there anything of record challenging those

21 hours, the calculation of those hours?

22 MR. SIEMINSKI: The strict mathematical

23 calculation, Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Correct.

25 MR. SIEMINSKI: No.

1 THE COURT: Is there anything of record that  
2 challenges the reasonableness of the number of hours that are  
3 included within the two affidavits?

4 MR. SIEMINSKI: Yes.

5 THE COURT: And where is that, please?

6 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, in -- I believe it's in  
7 my brief. We pointed out that there are multiple entries in  
8 the records filed by Mr. Reilly that would indicate he was  
9 giving general business advice to WRS and to Mr. Napor. He  
10 was providing advice about issues associated with Mr. Napor  
11 being ejected from his building. He was providing bankruptcy  
12 advice. And obviously, that is not something that falls  
13 within the purview of the suretyship agreement.

14 THE COURT: Where in an affidavit is there a  
15 challenge to the number of hours?

16 MR. SIEMINSKI: It's not in an affidavit, Your  
17 Honor, it's in a brief.

18 THE COURT: Do you have -- you want to respond to  
19 what he said, please?

20 MR. REILLY: Yes, Your Honor. I, I haven't had

21 pointed out to me specifically the time entries that the  
22 brief intends to refer to. In my response brief, or  
23 response, I attempted to elaborate on what I thought might be  
24 referred to, and I will attempt to explain.

25 I, after the WRS entity was in bankruptcy, I had to

1 be appointed by the Bankruptcy Court in order to represent  
2 WRS, and I was appointed in the bankruptcy proceeding. There  
3 were certain instances when I may have been in bankruptcy to  
4 present my motion to be appointed, but that was all as part  
5 of my representation of WRS on this case.

6 Secondly, the issues as framed in the original  
7 complaint dealt with matters beyond simply how much is owed  
8 on the guarantee and whether the guarantee is enforceable.  
9 It dealt with the ability of WRS to enforce its purported  
10 security interest in the materials that were in storage at  
11 WRS, including the possibility of exploiting the copyrights  
12 that may have belonged to the parties who owned the, for lack  
13 of a better term, software in the, in the films. And --

14 THE COURT: You want to close the door, please?  
15 Thank you.

16 MR. REILLY: And my efforts with respect to  
17 recovering the obligation owed by Plaza to WRS were not only  
18 directed at suing Mr. Herklotz, but in an effort to determine  
19 whether those assets could be realized upon. In particular,  
20 whether there could be a proceeding instituted in the

21 Bankruptcy Court that would bring in all the right holders

22 and in some way preclude them from challenging WRS's ability

23 to exploit the content of the videos.

24 That was never accomplished, but it was something

25 that was considered in the pursuit of this obligation, and as

1 part of, and in conjunction with the suit that we filed here,  
2 because the number of counts that we've sort of abandoned  
3 requested a declaration that we had those rights.

4 So, I was not WRS's business lawyer. I was  
5 retained for the specific purpose of pursuing this obligation  
6 and all the rights appendant and attendant thereto. And  
7 that's what my time and efforts were directed to.

8 THE COURT: Okay. In your first affidavit, which  
9 is dated October 13th, 2006, in Paragraph 8 you state that  
10 the total amount that you were seeking in that affidavit of  
11 \$86,748 was, in fact, with, quote, with respect to the  
12 enforcement of the obligation owed by Plaza Entertainment,  
13 Inc. and its guarantors to WRS Inc., close quote.

14 MR. REILLY: That's right.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Is that a true statement?

16 MR. REILLY: That's a true statement.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Again, there are documents  
18 attached to that affidavit. I would just ask for you to go  
19 on line and make sure the supporting documentation is clear.

20 MR. REILLY: I can put it page -- instead of making

21 six to a page, I'll put one to a page. That will do it.

22 THE COURT: Well, just go on line. The easiest

23 thing to do is go on line and see what -- and see if it's

24 clear.

25 MR. REILLY: Okay.

1 THE COURT: Just see if each of these exhibits.

2 And the same thing for the defendant. Anything that's

3 attached that's a number sheet, just make sure that it's

4 clear digitally when you bring it up on line. And if there's

5 anything that isn't, then please file a supplement or a clean

6 copy that can be, that can be read.

7 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, Your Honor, may I

8 briefly comment?

9 THE COURT: I'm going to give you a lot of time.

10 MR. SIEMINSKI: Okay.

11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Again, you've

12 been patient with me. I thank you for that. And tell me

13 whatever you would like to tell me, please.

14 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, two specific points on

15 what was just discussed.

16 First of all, Mr. Reilly suggested that it had not

17 been pointed out to him on the record as to where there were

18 issues with his legal fees. On Page 18 of the brief I filed

19 on behalf of Mr. Herklotz, there's an indication that there

20 are issues associated with Mr. Reilly's invoices, which are

21 marked as Pages 91 and 92.

22 So there are items on the record that suggest that

23 there are significant material factual issues with the legal

24 fees that Mr. Reilly now seeks to have Mr. Herklotz, my

25 client, pay.

1           Secondly, there were references to Plaza Inc. and  
2 its guarantors. I would just point out to the Court that  
3 there are a number of guarantors of Plaza Inc. that are  
4 reflected on the record that are not my client, Mr. Herklotz.  
5 And so, that raises an issue of material fact as to the  
6 parties against whom legal fees should be sought.

7           Now, those were specific comments to specific  
8 questions, but if the Court is giving me the opportunity to  
9 make a broader statement, I would certainly --

10          THE COURT: Certainly.

11          MR. SIEMINSKI: -- avail myself.

12          THE COURT: Certainly. Please.

13          So you can speak to anything we've discussed today,  
14 or anything you wish to discuss relating to the, to the  
15 pending motion.

16          MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, I just would suggest --  
17 and I appreciate the opportunity to do that. I would just  
18 suggest that although the suretyship agreement purports to be  
19 unconditional, it does not give WRS a license to be  
20 commercially unreasonable, both in terms of specific business

21 transactions and in terms of time.

22 In terms of specific business transactions, there's

23 a suggestion on the record that what WRS did after it

24 procured Mr. Herklotz's suretyship agreement, which has

25 sometimes been referred to in the case as a guarantee,

1 because that's what the document is entitled, that WRS just  
2 used that as a, as a license, so to speak, to run up a tab on  
3 Plaza's account that it never would have done in the absence  
4 of the guarantee.

5 There have to be some reasonable legal limits on  
6 what someone in WRS's position is allowed to do under these  
7 circumstances. And I won't belabor those, because as the  
8 Court indicated, they are set forth in my client's affidavit,  
9 they are set forth in my brief.

10 But a guarantee is a commercial document. It's not  
11 a license to print money on somebody else's behalf.

12 And in terms of the time, the temporal aspect,  
13 there has to be some legal limitation. And I would  
14 respectfully suggest it's not the year 2006, or when the  
15 clock stops ticking on Mr. Herklotz's account. I mean, we've  
16 gone over calculations that run to the year 2006.

17 The suit was filed in the year 2000. I mean, this  
18 is not a situation, I would suggest to the Court, where just  
19 because Mr. Herklotz signed the guarantee document, it, it  
20 extends into perpetuity, which is the position WRS has

21 essentially taken with this case.

22 Secondly, I would direct the Court's attention, and

23 I know the Court has read it, but it's a very important

24 document in context, obviously, is my client's affidavit. My

25 client is an accountant, and my client participated in the

1 Schneider Downs review of WRS's financial materials.

2 My client, as an accountant, has significant issues  
3 with the manner in which Schneider Downs performed its  
4 review. Schneider Downs essentially did a mechanical ticking  
5 and tying verification of numbers that are contained in WRS's  
6 financial documents, without ever, as far as I can see, or my  
7 client can see, making any sort of forensic investigation  
8 into what was behind those numbers. That needs to be further  
9 examined. And the, the forum for that is, is a trial on  
10 damages, Your Honor.

11 In addition, at the trial on damages that's  
12 required by this record, this very confused record as far as  
13 I'm concerned, Mr. Herklotz should have the opportunity to  
14 cross examine Mr. Napor about any aspect of Mr. Napor's  
15 affidavit.

16 Finally, in terms of the finance charges. My  
17 client pointed out, I think it's important to point out again  
18 here this morning, 40 percent of the amount that WRS is  
19 seeking is finance charges and interest. And so, Your Honor,  
20 when you, you view the facts, all the facts of record in the

21 light most favorable to Mr. Herklotz, as you're required to

22 do, there are significant issues of material fact that remain

23 in this case that should preclude summary judgment and do

24 call for a trial on damages.

25 THE COURT: On the service agreement, I thought the

1 service agreement calculations ended in December, 2000 and  
2 did not come down to 2006 at all, for any purpose.

3 Am I missing something?

4 MR. SIEMINSKI: That may be true for the services  
5 agreement. I was referring to the interest.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Well, yeah. I mean, the  
7 interest comes down, obviously. But the, the running of the  
8 service agreement charges ends, I thought, at December, 2000;  
9 that the storage charges appear to come down to, into 2006,  
10 and the account receivables ended in August, 2001. And so,  
11 except for the, obviously, the interest coming down.

12 All right. Anything else you would like to share  
13 with me today, please?

14 MR. SIEMINSKI: Your Honor, if I said anything  
15 more, what I would be doing is paraphrasing my client's  
16 affidavit, and I don't want to do that.

17 THE COURT: I can assure you, I've read the  
18 affidavit.

19 MR. SIEMINSKI: I know Your Honor has.

20 I guess the last point that I would make is a point

21 that my client did make, that alleges, though Schneider Downs

22 purports to have performed a review of every aspect of the

23 charges, if you take a close look at the Schneider Downs

24 report, Your Honor, there are significant unanswered

25 questions, there are significant red flags, and there are a

1 significant number of transactions that Schneider Downs could

2 not trace at all. And these pertain to this lock box

3 arrangement in particular.

4 And I think one would be very hard-pressed to read

5 the Schneider Downs report and come to a conclusion is that

6 Schneider Downs had examined everything that was necessary to

7 be examined in what would be an appropriate forensic

8 examination of the WRS financial records.

9 THE COURT: Thanks to both of you for your hard

10 work. Fortunately, I have an accounting background which

11 makes it a little easier for me. But I do thank you for your

12 labors and for both counsel's thoroughness and zealous

13 representation of your clients. Thank you.

14 MR. REILLY: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 MR. SIEMINSKI: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Have a great day.

17 (Recess at 9:35 a.m.).

18 KATHY SEEWALD, Law Clerk: All rise. This Court

19 now stands in recess.

20 \* \* \* \* \*

21 I certify by my original signature herein that the

22 foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of

23 proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

24

25 S/Virginia S. Pease  
Official Reporter